

Alberta Finance

Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of August 30, 2004 to September 3, 2004

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Canadian GDP	2 nd Quarter	Quarter over previous quarter	Annualized Change	Canada's real Gross Domestic Product rose 1.1% (4.3% at annualized rates) in the second quarter of 2004. This was up from a 0.7% gain in the first quarter. The increase in growth was fuelled by exports, which surged by 5.0%. Export growth spurred the manufacturing, wholesaling, and rail and truck transportation sectors. Manufacturing reported a 1.6% increase, with gains in 17 of 21 major groups. Motor vehicle production increased by 4.4%, while production of fabricated metal products was up 3.4%. Rail and truck transportation were up 5.3% and 4.2%, respectively. Wholesalers also benefited from increased exports, reporting a 2.4% gain. The Canadian economy's (annualized) growth of 4.3% exceeded U.S. second quarter growth, which was at 2.8%.
(Millions of 1997 dollars)	1,124,350	1.1%	4.3%	
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	July			Manufacturers' prices fell 0.4% in July, recording their second consecutive monthly decline. Lower prices for motor vehicles and transport equipment (-1.8%) accounted for more than half of the monthly decrease, while lumber and wood products (2.0%) also declined. The largest increases were reported in metal fabricated products (+2.4%) and machinery and equipment (+0.7%). On an annual basis, the Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) was up 5.0% in July. Excluding petroleum and coal products, the annual increase in the IPPI was 3.8%.
	110.6	-0.4%	5.0%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	July			In July, raw materials prices rose 0.9%, following a decline of 1.2% in June. Mineral fuels (+1.9%) were the main factor contributing to the monthly increase, while prices of ferrous materials also rose significantly (+10.9%). These increases were partially offset by declining prices for vegetable products (5.4%) animals and animal products (-0.8%), and wood (-0.6%). On an annual basis, raw materials prices were up 17.7% in July, the highest annual rate of growth in 17 months.
	128.8	0.9%	17.7%	